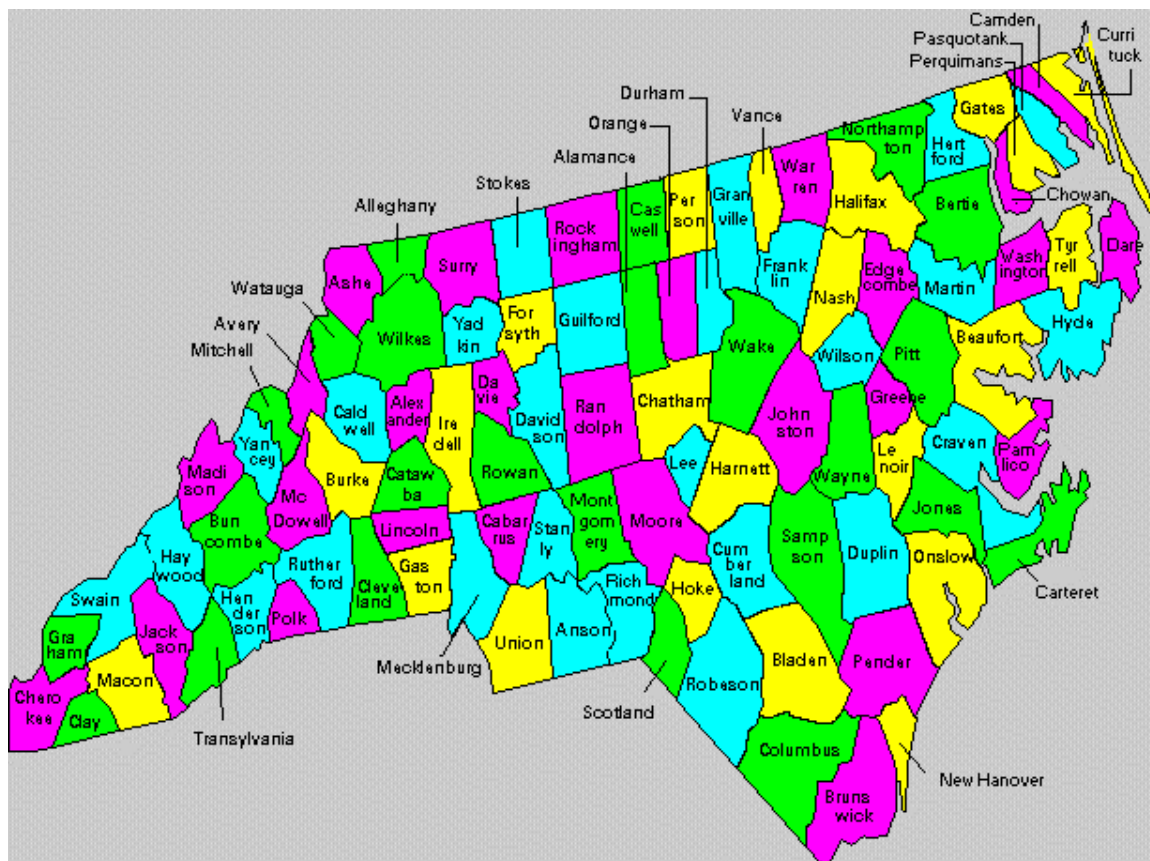


Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (Mecklenburg County): 511,433 (1990 Census); 648,400 (1999 estimate)
- Race/Ethnicity (Mecklenburg County): 71.3% white; 26.3% African American; 0.4% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.7% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.4% other race; 1.3% Hispanic

Politics²

- Mecklenburg County Sheriff: Jim Pendergraph
- Charlotte Mayor: Patrick McCrory
- Charlotte City Council: Patrick D. Cannon, James Mitchell, Sara Spencer, Rod Autrey, Susan Burgess, Pat McCrory, Lynn Wheeler; Malcolm Graham, Don Lochman, Joe White, Nancy Carter, Mike Castano

Programs/Initiatives

- Executive Office of Weed and Seed³
The West Boulevard Corridor section of Charlotte received official recognition as a Weed and Seed site in February of 1998. This area consists of nine neighborhoods that have all been considered “fragile.” Approximately 10,000 people live in this area. 96% of this population is African American, and 48% of the total population has an income that falls below the poverty level. In 1996, over 50% of all drug arrests in Charlotte occurred in the West Boulevard Corridor. One of the goals of this Weed and Seed site is to establish a policy of education and enforcement of drug-free school zones.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 1998 there were 52,502 index offenses known to the police in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.⁴

Offenses Known to Police, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, 1998

Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggrav. Assault	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft
65	333	2,400	5,829	10,701	29,256	3,918

Enforcement

- Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office⁵
 - Approximately 1,000 employees
 - K-9 Unit with five deputies and five dogs
- The total number of full-time law enforcement employees in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area is 1,619. 1,261 of these are sworn officers and the remaining 358 are civilians.⁶

Corrections⁷

- There were approximately 62,000 inmates processed in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area last year.
- Jail-Central
This pre-trial detention and intake center found in Charlotte opened in 1997 and is currently being expanded. After expansion, this jail will accommodate approximately 1,800 offenders.
- Jail-North
This facility in Charlotte opened in 1994. Jail-North is designed to house 614 sentenced inmates. Opportunities available for inmates here include a substance abuse education program and GED program.
- Also found in Charlotte are a Jail-Annex and Work Release/Restitution Center.

Treatment⁸

- The Amethyst Treatment Center operates a 28-day treatment program for male inmates at Jail Central. Each day is fully structured with therapeutic activities with all participants housed in a single unit. Detention officers and counselors work as a team to provide treatment services.
- Area Mental Health Staff provides a 28-day treatment program at Jail North for women; a six week program for males; and substance abuse education and treatment for youthful offenders.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Charlotte-Mecklenburg Web site: <http://www.charmeck.nc.us>

³ Executive Office of Weed and Seed: <http://www.weedseed.org/site.asp>

⁴ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov>

⁵ Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.co.mecklenburg.nc.us/cosheriff/Default.htm>

⁶ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov>

⁷ Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.co.mecklenburg.nc.us/cosheriff/Default.htm>

⁸ Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.co.mecklenburg.nc.us/cosheriff/Jails.htm>

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